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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 000906

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2018  
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [ASEC](#) [PINR](#) [ES](#) [GT](#)  
SUBJECT: PARLACEN MURDER SUSPECT SMEARS NAS EMPLOYEE WITH  
FALSE RECORDING

REF: 07 GUATEMALA 348 ET AL

Classified By: Ambassador James M. Derham for reasons 1.4 (b&d).

#### Summary

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11. (SBU) On July 15 Mayor of San Jose Acatempa Carlos Enrique Castillo delivered to prosecutors fabricated recordings in which a speaker purporting to be Embassy NAS employee Ray Campos gives police instructions to intercept and detain the three Salvadoran PARLACEN deputies who were murdered February 19, 2007. Carlos Castillo, a reputed narcotrafficker, is the brother of former Mayor of Jutiapa and now fugitive from justice Manuel Castillo, who is the leading suspect in the PARLACEN murders case. The release of the fabricated recordings came a day after the murder of Juan Carlos Martinez, an assistant prosecutor who was investigating the PARLACEN murders, and a subsequent attempt to implicate members of the Attorney General's Office in Martinez's killing. Embassy immediately released a press statement asserting that the recordings and allegations against Campos were spurious. Embassy is currently reviewing Campos' security situation, and is taking measures to enhance his security. End Summary.

#### Notorious Mayor Attempts to Smear NAS Employee

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12. (SBU) On July 15 Carlos Enrique "Quique" Castillo delivered to the Attorney General's Office two video and three audio recordings dealing with the February 19 murders of three Salvadoran Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) deputies, whose remains were found near Guatemala City (reftel). Guatemalan television stations played portions of the recordings on the evening of July 15, and DCM and NAS employee Ray Campos listened to them in their entirety at the Attorney General's Office during a meeting the same day with Attorney General Juan Luis Florido and Lead Prosecutor Alvaro Matus. The first video clip is of now-deceased Ministry of Government Senior Advisor Victor Rivera interrogating the four policemen initially implicated in the murders. The second video clip is of police advisor Javier Figueroa discussing the case by telephone. The first audio clip is of Prosecutor Matus asking an evasive police officer to come in and discuss the case with him. In the second audio clip, a Spanish speaker feigning an English accent purporting to be Campos allegedly directs police to intercept and detain the three deputies, whom it is alleged are transporting drugs. (Note: Campos, a retired FBI agent, is a native Spanish speaker and does not have an English accent when speaking Spanish.) In the third audio clip, the speaker purported to be Campos discusses cover-up of the crime.

13. (C) During his conversation with DCM and Campos,

Prosecutor Matus was dismissive of the tapes, but nonetheless separately told press he would investigate them. The Attorney General's Office may ask Campos for a voice sample to compare to the tapes. Embassy prefers that Campos not be involved in a legal process, and may refer the Attorney General's Office to publicly available recordings of Campos' interventions at public events if prosecutors wish to compare the voices.

#### Press Dismissive of Tapes

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¶4. (SBU) Guatemalan press coverage on July 16 highlighted the Embassy's press statement denouncing the tapes and the allegation against Campos as spurious, and some press ignored the story entirely. Most reporting accurately portrayed the recordings as an attempt by the prime suspect's brother to distract and mislead the public about the true origins of the crime. Attorney General Florido canceled his routine, Wednesday morning press conference on July 16 so as to avoid further questions about the tapes, per his office.

#### PARLACEN Prosecutor Murdered

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¶5. (C) Enrique Castillo's delivery of the tapes came a day after the murder of Assistant Prosecutor Juan Carlos Martinez, who was assassinated at 0445 hours outside his home as he left for work. According to Prosecutor Matus, the two were going to meet the same morning to discuss developments in the PARLACEN case. Attorney General Florido told DCM and Campos that someone had speciously indicated to press that security guards from his office had killed Martinez.

#### Embassy Reviewing Campos' Security

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¶6. (C) Embassy Guatemala is currently reviewing NAS employee Ray Campos' personal security in light of criminals' attempt to publicly defame him. RSO has implemented immediate measures to enhance Campos' security.

#### Comment

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¶7. (C) The persons responsible for the murders of the three Salvadoran PARLACEN deputies have demonstrated willingness and ability to resort to further killings in attempts to eliminate witnesses and deter authorities from prosecuting the crime. Through the release of the recordings and Martinez's murder, they again appear to be acting to try to defend their interests. While Embassy doubts that they would contemplate violence against a USG employee, and would stand to gain nothing from harming Campos, we are nonetheless closely reviewing Campos' situation.

Derham